

Media Contact:
Anne Veigle
anne.veigle@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$13.9 MILLION IN EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Nearly 18 Million Students Nationwide Have Received Support to Date in Ongoing Work to Close the Homework Gap

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2023—The Federal Communications Commission today announced it is committing over \$13.9 million in a new funding round through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, which provides digital tools and services to support students in communities across the country. Today’s funding commitment supports applications from the third application window, benefitting approximately 35,000 students nationwide, including students in California, New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

“In or out of session, connecting students to digital resources remains vital to their academic success. Libraries and schools ensure students have access to the internet year-round. That’s why we are pleased to announce another round of funding that will empower libraries and schools to provide students the digital tools needed to close the Homework Gap,” said **FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel**.

Today’s announcement will support approximately 52 schools and school districts, 5 libraries and library systems. The funding can be used to support off-campus learning, such as nightly homework, and summertime online learning programs to ensure students across the country have the necessary support to keep up with their education. More details about which schools and libraries have received funding commitments can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund>.

Launched in 2021, the Emergency Connectivity Program has provided schools and libraries three different “application windows” to apply for support. Approximately \$6.7 billion in funding commitments have been approved to date, approximately \$4.14 billion is supporting applications from Window 1; \$834 million from Window 2; and \$1.77 billion from Window 3. To date, the funding has provided support to approximately 18 million students, 11,000 schools, 1,050 libraries, and 120 consortia, and provided nearly 13 million connected devices and over 8 million broadband connections.

As a long-term solution to the Homework Gap, Chairwoman Rosenworcel recently announced her new initiative “Learn Without Limits” to modernize the E-Rate program to allow for Wi-Fi on school buses and for permanent support to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots. For more information see: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-announces-learn-without-limits-initiative>.

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. □ Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. □ See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).